

## CLAIMS

### What Is Claimed Is:

- 5           1.       A shock absorbing saddle for use in horse-back riding, said saddle comprising:  
a frame assembly;  
a padded seat secured to said frame assembly;  
said frame assembly having a shock absorbing system;  
said shock absorbing system comprises means for absorbing shock; and  
10           means for securing said frame assembly to a horse.
2.       A saddle as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
a fabric-based cover; and  
means for securing said cover to said padded seat.
- 15           3.       A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for absorbing shock comprises:  
a plurality of shock absorbing springs.
4.       A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for absorbing shock comprises:  
20           a plurality of shock absorbing air pistons.
5.       A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said frame assembly comprises:  
an upper frame comprising a plurality of rods operatively joined together;

a lower frame comprising a plurality of rods operatively joined together, said means for absorbing shock extending between said lower frame and said upper frame joining said frames together.

5           6.       A saddle as recited in claim 5, wherein said means for absorbing shock comprises:  
a plurality of shock absorbing springs.

7.       A saddle as recited in claim 5, wherein said means for absorbing shock comprises:  
a plurality of shock absorbing air pistons.

10           8.       A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said frame assembly comprises:  
an upper plate;  
a lower plate, said means for absorbing shock extending between said lower plate  
and said upper plate joining said plates together.

15           9.       A saddle as recited in claim 8, wherein said means for absorbing shock comprises:  
a plurality of shock absorbing air pistons.

10.       A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said padded seat comprises a cushion.

20           11.       A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said frame assembly further comprises foam  
padding.

12. A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said padded seat fits over said frame assembly.

13. A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said frame assembly and padded seat  
5 comprise contours that adapt to the contours of a horse back.